

135
Lexington seniors receive Senate praise

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Tom Lane was recognized by Lt. Gov. Andre Bower recently for his service to the Palmetto State.

The lieutenant governor noted that Tom Lane, a former bank officer, had served in the U.S. Army for six years, and had taught in Lexington/Richland District 5 schools for 24 years is now a volunteer in the Lt. Governor's office dealing with constituent services.

Sen. Jake Knotts introduced the couple to his fellow senators, "Tom Lane and Ursula Lane could serve as the models for perfect senior citizens in South Carolina."

Elsie Shealy, the widow of the late Senator Ryan Shealy was introduced on the floor of the Senate by Lexington Senator Nikki Setzler who said her long professional career included many accomplishments. In addition to working tirelessly on her husband's many re-election efforts, the Columbia College graduate also taught math for five years in Lexington County schools before going on to work for the World Book Encyclopedia company, where she became the company's first female Senior Vice-President, in charge of sales for the entire Southeast region. She now spends time as a motivational speaker, traveling world wide, but still finds time to teach an adult Sunday School class at St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Lt. Governor Bauer created the Senior of the Day program to recognize the contributions of individual seniors in South Carolina to their local communities and to raise awareness of aging issues among state lawmakers. The General Assembly placed Lt. Governor Bauer in charge of the state's Aging Office in 2004.

"This is just a small way to give credit where credit is due to some of the tremendous seniors that we have in this state," said Bauer. "I hope it will also serve as a daily reminder to our lawmakers about the importance of aging issues to the future of our state and help educate them about some of the things that we need to do to help prepare South Carolina for the demographic changes coming our way over the next two decades."



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Tom Lane was joined by his wife, Ursula and Lt. Gov. Andre Bower after being honored.



Elsie Shealy with Lt. Gov. Andre Bauer